

Appl. No. 09/921,677

Amdt. Dated September 23, 2005

Reply to Office Action of June 27, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application:

Claims 1-9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (original): In a system having multiple security channels, a method of modifying an entry in a security association database, the method associated with each channel comprising:

requesting access to a predetermined address location in the security association database;

assigning a weight value to the request based on a sequential order of the request relative to access requests to the predetermined address location made by other of the security channels;

retrieving the security association data structure from the predetermined address location when, based on the weight value assigned to the request, the channel has a higher priority request relative to the other security channel requests;

modifying the retrieved security association data structure; and

writing the modified security association data structure to the predetermined address location in the security association database.

Claim 11 (original): The method of Claim 10, wherein the step of requesting access comprises setting a request bit in a control register.

Claim 12 (original): The method of Claim 10, wherein the security association data structure is retrieved in response to setting a grant bit in the control register.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of Claim 10, wherein the step of writing the modified security association data structure to the predetermined address location comprises:

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writing the modified security association data structure of to a write buffer prior to writing it to the predetermined address location; and

writing the modified security association data structure to the predetermined address from the write the buffer.

Claim 14 (original): The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of requesting access comprises setting a request bit in a control register, and wherein the method further comprises:

resetting the request bit prior to writing the modified security association data structure to the predetermined address location from the write buffer.

Claim 15 (original): The method of Claim 13, further comprising:

determining whether the write buffer is busy prior to writing the modified security association data structure thereto.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

storing the retrieved security association data structure in a local memory; and
modifying the retrieved security association data structure .

Claim 17 (original): The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

storing the predetermined address location of the retrieved security association data structure in a register.

Claim 18 (original): In a system having multiple security channels, a method of modifying an entry in a security association database, the method associated with each channel comprising:

requesting access to a predetermined address location in the security association database;

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assigning a weight value to the request based on a sequential order of the request relative to access requests to the predetermined address location made by other of the security channels;

retrieving the security association data structure from the predetermined address location when, based on the weight value assigned to the request, the channel has a higher priority request relative to the other security channel requests;

modifying the retrieved security association data structure;

determining whether a write buffer is busy;

writing the modified security association data structure to the write buffer when it is not busy; and

writing the modified security association data structure to the predetermined address location in the security association database from the write buffer.

Claims 19-34 (canceled).

Claim 35 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing computer executable code for instructing one or more security channels in a computer system having multiple security channels to modify an entry in a security association database, the instructions comprising:

~~determining whether another of the multiple security channels has a higher priority to access a security association database structure located at a predetermined address location in the security association database;~~

requesting access to a predetermined address location in the security association database;

assigning a weight value to the request based on a sequential order of the request relative to access requests to the predetermined address location made by other of the security channels;

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retrieving the security association data structure from the predetermined address location when based on the weight value assigned to the request, no other security channel has a higher priority to do so;

modifying the retrieved security association data structure; and

writing the modified security association data structure to the predetermined address location in the security association database.